

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Claims Resolution Act, which reauthorizes Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Contingency Fund for an additional year and includes payment for decades-old discrimination against African-American farmers and Native Americans.

Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Milwaukee) said, **“A short-term TANF extension is less than ideal.▯ This recession is driving more and more families into poverty; in fact, more Americans are living in poverty today than at any time over the last 50 years.▯ We need a long-term solution that strengthens our safety net.”**

Between 1981 and 1996, the Agriculture Department discriminated against black farmers in terms of loans and other assistance. In February of this year, USDA reached a settlement with remaining claimants. The bill also brings a resolution to a long-running class action suit against the Interior Department for mismanaging Native American land and not fairly distributing gas and oil royalties made off the land to Native Americans.

Moore continued, **“Institutional discrimination is real, and we should be embarrassed that it’s taken Washington this long to make this right.▯ This long-overdue legislation brings justice to those who were wronged and moves us forward.”**

Earlier this month, the legislation unanimously passed the Senate. It passed the House by a vote of 256 to 152 and goes to President Obama for his signature.

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